Upgradation of Ahmedabad Airport

159. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minis ter of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ahmedabad Airport is to be converted into international airport and named after 'Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport' in the Eighth Plan period;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the formalities have been completed for the purpose but the Airport Authority of India is delaying the scheme;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the scheme will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Ahmedabad Airport has already been renamed as 'Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport' on 07-12-1996 and facilities exist for limited international operations.

(d) Ahmedabad Airport is being up-graded to international standards for the operation of B-747 type of aircraft. In phase-I, runway is being strengthened and extended to 11500' with associated pavement works. The works have been awarded and are likely to be completed by November, 2000.

Proposal for collaboration between Tata Industry and Singapore Airlines

160. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for collaboration between Tata Industries and the Singapore Airlines for operating domestic Air services in India has been under consideration of Government;

(b) the details of the foreign equity participation offered and whether the same has been cleared by the Foreign Investment Promotion. Board;

(c) whether the collaboration proposal meets the requirements of Government's Civil Aviation Policy; if so, to what extent; and

(d) the reasons for delay in clearing the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) In December, 1997 M/s Tata Industries had submitted a proposal to Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) for foreign equity of 40% in M/s Tata Airlines Pvt. Ltd. by issue and allotment of equity shares upto a maximum of Rupees equivalent of US $ 83.00 million (around Rs. 332 crores) to Foreign Institutional Investors. The prop-osal also involved technical collaboration with M/s Singapore Airlines. The proposal envisaged a fleet of 18 aircraft in 5 years.

While the proposal was being examined by the Government, M/s Tata Industries withdrew their proposal on 1st September, 1998.

Protection of International Passenger Traffic

161. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out growth projection in international air passenger traffic for the next 20 years; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the existing facilities at international airports are getting satu rated requiring expansioivupgradation of other airports to handle ever growing international air passenger traffic;

(c) if so, the details of plans, proposed to be implemented during the current year and Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the details of airports identified for upgradation to handle international air passenger traffic and proposals received and processed by Government and present status thereof?